

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1) A method for developing and performing a manufacturing project comprising the steps of:

providing a concept proposal to develop processes to
5 manufacture a desired product;

conducting a concept feasibility procedure,
effective to demonstrate that a certain technology is
feasible to manufacture said desired product;

performing a manufacturing concept ready procedure,
10 effective to verify that said certain technology is
capable of manufacturing said desired product under
simulated conditions;

performing a manufacturing implementation procedure,
effective to verify that said certain technology is
15 functionally sound and meets certain quality and cost
criteria; and

performing a replication procedure, effective to
implement multiple applications of said certain
technology within other manufacturing processes.

20 (2) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step
of:

assembling a workforce for performing said project.

(3) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps
of:

25 providing orientation and communication processes
for said workforce;

providing career development and training processes for said workforce; and

providing reward and recognition processes for said workforce.

- 5 (4) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

performing a procedure to establish logistic metrics pertaining to project performance and budgeting.

- (5) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

forming manufacturing technology committees; and convening said committees on a regular basis to define effective strategies to advance global manufacturing competitiveness.

- 15 (6) The method of Claim 5 wherein said project is related to the manufacture of an automotive vehicle.

(7) A method for developing and performing a manufacturing project comprising the steps of:

establishing logistic metrics relating to project performance and budgeting;

executing said project in a plurality of phases;

performing a milestone review at the completion of each of said plurality of phases, said milestone review being effective to insure that affected parties are

25 informed of certain project issues; and

maintaining a project timing plan including said

logistic metrics and said milestone reviews.

(8) The method of claim 7 wherein plurality of phases comprises a concept proposal phase.

(9) The method of claim 8 wherein plurality of phases further comprises a concept feasibility phase.

(10) The method of claim 9 wherein plurality of phases further comprises a manufacturing concept ready phase.

(11) The method of claim 10 wherein plurality of phases further comprises a manufacturing implementation ready phase.

(12) The method of claim 11 wherein plurality of phases comprises a replication phase.

(13) A method for developing and performing a manufacturing project comprising the steps of:

providing a concept proposal based upon at least one customer need and a review of technology capable of achieving said customer need;

demonstrating that a technology is capable of providing said customer need through a certain process;

verifying that said certain process is capable of providing said at least one customer need under simulated conditions expected during a production application, while meeting certain cost and timing requirements;

verifying and demonstrating that said technology is functionally sound and has a certain quality value and cost value; and

implementing multiple applications of said technology in manufacturing operations.

(14) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of performing a milestone review meeting to insure that
5 affected parties are informed certain project issues after each step.

(15) The method of claim 13 wherein said review of technology includes identifying a best in class technology and a state-of-the-art technology.

10 (16) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

convening committees on a regular basis to assess best in class technologies and state-of-the-art technologies.

15 (17) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of

establishing logistic metrics relating to project performance and budgeting by manufacturing wants.

(18) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step
20 of:

conducting time and data management meetings.

(19) The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

closing said project only if customer concurrence
25 has been received or if said project has been terminated.

(20) The method or claim 19 wherein said manufacturing

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